

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 15-22, 25-28, 32 and 33 have been allowed; Claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 12-14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by McGugan et al. Claims 23, 24 and 29-31 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-22, 25-28, 32 and 33 remain active.

The Examiner's indication of allowance of Claims 9, 15-22, 25-28, 32 and 33 is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated.

The Examiner's objection to Claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 is dependent from Claim 4 which has been amended to be allowable in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Claims 13 and 14 are dependent from Claim 12 which has been amended to be allowable in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 12-14 are therefore clearly patentable.

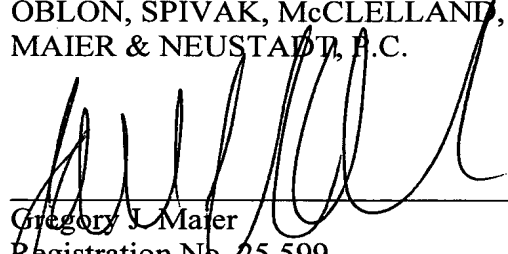
Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by McGugan et al., it is to be noted that independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to add that *wherein the grip force acting unit and the grip unit can be screwably engaged with each other such that a tightening of the screwable engagement causes the plurality of the grip portions to move radially towards the second shaft.* McGugan et al. fails to disclose wherein the grip force acting unit and the grip unit can be screwably engaged with each other such that a tightening of the screwable engagement causes the

plurality of the grip portions to move radially towards the second shaft, as recited in Claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 10 (and dependent Claims 1, 6 and 11) patentably define over McGugan et al.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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